

cellency, Gov. GRAHAM, and earnestly urge his acceptance of the nomination therein made; and that they report to this Convention as soon as convenient, the Governor's reply.⁴

*From John D. Hawkins.*⁵

A.

Washington City,

Jan'y 15th., 1846.

In accordance with your views expressed to me in your letter of the 30th. ult. in relation to four Horse Coaches from Raleigh to Campden, (I presume you meant Columbia) I have had an interview with the Post Master Gen'l and handed him your letter. In your letter to him, you asked him for the Four Horse Coaches, to aid the facility of the Traveling community. To do that, he is forbidden by the act of Congress, and as that was your main object as thus expressed, he viewed the increased speed asked for as a minor consideration with you, upon which consideration *only*, he could comply with your request. He then turned to the profits to the Department from Raleigh to Fayetteville, etc., etc.,

⁴The *Hillsborough Recorder* of January 22nd., 1846, described what followed: "Accordingly, in a short time, the Governor entered the Hall, and never have we seen any man greeted by such marked demonstrations of popular attachment. It was some minutes before silence was sufficiently restored to enable the Governor to address the Convention. Sensibly affected by the enthusiastic reception given him, he proceeded to respond to the nomination which had been tendered, in a brief, but most eloquent and impressive speech. Without affectation, he promptly accepted the call, and declared his readiness again to represent the Whigs, as their standard-bearer, in the coming contest. And no one there, whatever his politics, who looked upon his fine, intellectual face, and heard his words of truth and soberness, could have failed to pay a silent tribute to the dignity and elevation of his character—those attributes which render him so deservedly an object of pride to his party and his friends—or have resisted the conviction that with such a candidate as William A. Graham, before such a people as North Carolina can boast of, defeat is impossible."

The *Fayetteville Observer*, of January 20th., 1846, thus commented:

"Gov. Graham's response to the nomination was, like everything he says and does, sound, sensible, and dignified; full of affection for his native State, and of devotion to the Whig party. His character is a perfect emblem of that of North Carolina. His hands are clean, his heart pure, his head clear. Modest and retiring, he never thrusts himself forward, but has always obeyed the call of those who had a right to require his services at whatever sacrifice. More sound than brilliant, he moves on in the even tenor of his way, commanding the respect and confidence of all who are capable of appreciating his practical common sense, his unsullied character, his public and private virtues. May the good old North State ever have at the helm so true a representative of herself as WILLIAM A. GRAHAM."

⁵John David Hawkins (1781-1858), of Warren and, later, Franklin, a graduate of the university, who studied law under Judge John Haywood, but became a planter on a large scale, and business man. He was a devoted supporter of internal improvements, and was active in promoting the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company. He represented Franklin in the state senate, 1834, 1836-1840.